Trade between India and Bangladesh

†2335. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of trade between India and Bangladesh during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the trade between India and Bangladesh during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the reasons due to which trade between India and Bangladesh is hampered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Trade between India and Bangladesh has been steadily progressing which may be seen from the details given in the table below:

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	India's exports to Bangladesh	India's imports from Bangladesh	Total Trade
2000-2001	872.98	73.87	946.85
2001-2002	1002.18	59.12	1061.30
2002-2003	1176.00	62.05	1238.24
2003-2004	1646.08	62.24	1708.32
(April-Dec.) 2004	1100.13	31.89	1131.89

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Upto the year 2003-04, total trade between India and Bangladesh was registering strong growth. However, during the year 2004-05 (April-December), a marginal decrease has been noticed but this could not be generalised as decline.

Import of sensitive items

†2336. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of sensitive items has dropped in the country during the current financial year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total worth of items imported during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisional value of total import of sensitive items during April-November, 2004 is Rs. 12,462 crores as compared to Rs. 12,520 crores during the corresponding period of previous year thereby showing a negative growth of 0.5%.

(c) The total value of items imported during April-November 2004 was Rs. 2,92,566 crore (provisional) as compared to Rs. 2,20,924 crore during the corresponding period of last year.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on sea food by the US

2337. SHRI B.J. PANDA;
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the USA has imposed final anti-dumping duty on sea food imports from our country;

(b) if so, whether, it is lower than the earlier one; and

(c) if so, how, far it has put our industry on a better footing compared to the previous duty regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) US Department of Commerce announced the final anti-dumping duty of 10.17% on Indian sea food imports from India.

(b) The preliminary anti-dumping duty imposed on Indian sea food by US Department of Commerce was 14.20%. After hearing our arguments by the lawyer and also based on the statistics furnished by the mandatory respondents, the US Department of Commerce has now fixed the antidumping duty to 10.17%.

(c) With the reduced rate of anti-dumping duty now fixed at 10.17%, the sea food exporters from India are certainly on a better footing compared to the preliminary duty earlier fixed. This will make our products more competitive in the US markets.